

Message Text

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73

ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00

COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-11 IO-14 L-03

NSF-04 NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20 SP-03

FEA-02 DOTE-00 FMC-04 CG-00 SWF-02 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 DRC-01 /193 W

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P R 221851Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9926

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 5047

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: PLOS CI

SUBJ: METULA SITREP

FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED BY CHILEAN NAVY GEN STAFF FROM CHILEAN
NAVY THIRD ZONE COMMANDER AND IS RELAYED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

"OIL SPILLAGE AS OF THIS DATE IS APPROXIMATELY TWENTY (20) THOUSAND
TONS AND GRADUALLY INCREASING.

CONTAMINATION COVERS PART OF THE COAST MENTIONED EARLIER BUT WITH
A DENSER OIL LAYER. FELIPE BAY TWENTY (20) PERCENT COVERED WITH
OIL SLICKS NOT PAST DUNGENESS IN DIRECTION OF THE ATLANTIC. SECOND
NARROWING OF STRAITS IS FREE OF OIL. PREDOMINANT WINDS ARE FROM
THE WEST AND SOUTHWEST, THUS KEEPING THE OIL FROM FLOWING TO
THE SOUTH AND DISSIPATING.

THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT IN NOT USING, FOR THE MOMENT, ANY
DISPERSING AGENT. ONLY PHYSICAL DAMAGE IS TO THE FOWL AND
ESPORA RAMP, WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE USABLE DURING HIGH-
TIDE. AUTHORITIES AT RIO GALLEGOS INFORMED OF THE TEMPORARY
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LIMITATION OF FERRY USE.

SALVAGING OPERATIONS (OF THE METULA) HAVE BECOME DELICATE IN NATURE DUE TO RUPTURE OF HULL BOTTOM IN THE BOW SECTION AS WELL AS RUPTURE OF SEVEN OF THE FIFTEEN CARGO (OIL) TANKS, IN ADDITION TO THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT. PUMPING FROM LAND HAS BEEN DISCOUNTED DUE TO A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS, GENERAL PLAN IS TO LIGHTEN THE TANKER WITH ASSISTANCE FROM B/T HARVELLA (ARGENTIAN TANKER), WHICH WILL REQUIRE THE USE OF FOUR ADAPT PUMPS FROM U.S. COAST GUARD WHICH ALREADY HAVE BEEN REQUESTED VIA NAVY TELEX MESSAGE TO U.S. NAVAL ATTACHE SANTIAGO BY CDR ATKINSON.

SALVAGE COMPANY HAS REALIZED THAT THEY WERE NOT EXPECTING A REFLOATING JOB OF THIS MAGNITUDE, WHICH IS MUCH MORE THAN WHAT THEY INITIALLY EXPECTED.

TECHNICIANS ESTIMATE THAT TRAFFIC THROUGH THE FIRST STRAITS NARROWING WILL NOT HAMPER SALVAGE OPERATIONS. WILL INFORM AS TO DATE WHEN LIGHTENING OPERATIONS WILL COMMENCE WITH B/T HARVELLA, WHICH IS REASON FOR MOMENTARILY HALTING ALL TRAFFIC IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF OPERATIONS.".

POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OIL SPILLS, METULA SITREP
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTIA05047
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740232-0289
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740826/aaaaavyq.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: OATING JOB OF THIS MAGNITUDE, WHICH, IS MUCH MORE THAN WHAT
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: METULA SITREP FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED BY CHILEAN NAVY GEN STAFF FROM CHILEAN
TAGS: PLOS, SENV, CI, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005